

The Tribune's Platform Contest Begins Its Second Week

Vote Is Pledged To Party That Rises to Times

Self-Determination at Home and Co-operation Abroad Are Said To Be the Basis of New World Policies

Free Speech Is Defended

Effective Check on Profiteering Is Declared Best Cure for Public Unrest

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: This November I will cast my first vote at a Presidential election. I belong to no political party; my vote is not pledged beforehand. It will be my earnest desire to support that party and those men who, in my opinion, most nearly stand for true Americanism, whose victory will mean safety and prosperity for this country and its citizens.

I will vote for the party that is alive to the new spirit in the world, the party which recognizes clearly that each country calls for self-determination within its own boundaries, the settlement of international problems, the cooperation and mutual aid in the settlement of international problems.

I will vote for the party which will be opposed unalterably to any abrogation of the right of free speech and assembly, the party which will guarantee to minorities their right to agitate peacefully and by any lawful means at their command, but which will in turn exact from minorities by the calm force of its just dealing their pledge to abide by the expressed will of the majority.

I will vote for the party that has not prejudged the case between capital and labor, the party that will make its decisions fairly and without regard to the insistencies of either organized capital or organized labor, the party which sees that the time has come for

To-day's Prize Letter

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: The most difficult thing, by nature, for the American people to do is the most important thing to which the next administration can give its attention: the avoidance of extremes.

On the one hand, we have the Soviet government of Russia; on the other, the despotism of Woodrow Wilson, and both assuming to furnish "ideal democracy."

Neither is satisfactory. Formerly we had numberless saloons and unlimited whisky. Now, the farmer may be sent to jail for leaving his sweet cider in his cellar.

The final judgment as to whether group privilege shall rule our country in the future or the rights and comforts of the whole people as citizens. I will support the party which recognizes that the present unrest may be wholly allayed by immediate and sincere efforts at a reduction of the cost of living, not by "fair price" committee investigations, but by a determination of a maximum price, which shall be maintained over a definite length of time or until more settled conditions return, and by real and earnest prosecution of those men who are taking advantage of the times to exact a usurious rate of interest for money invested.

E. B.

Law to Make Lynching Federal Crime Declared Desirable
To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: The Republican platform should contain a plank wherein it promises to make lynching a Federal crime. I would suggest, too, that the party serve notice that all Federal amendments hereafter will be rigidly enforced.

JULIUS A. THOMAS.
133 West 140th Street, City.

Neither condition is satisfactory. Of old we welcomed hordes of immigrants, without respect to their purpose or ability, because they furnished cheap labor. Now we would put up the bars to all.

Moderation, good sirs, moderation in all things, and let us make haste slowly. We are already burdened with too many laws, too many taxes and too much government. Let us avoid too quick and too sweeping reforms.

FRANK R. CHAMBERS JR.
Lorton, Va.

Candidate, Not Platform, Declared Real Question People Not Interested in Hair-Splitting Technicalities.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: The Tribune, like some other papers, has taken a fling at Mr. Sweet, who is trying to do a good job. All hands seem to jump at this occasion as good political bait. No doubt there are lots of technical points to fight over, which you can string out for some time. But who wants to vote for the Republican party unless it intends to help clean up the country, as they are trying to do now in Albany?

If sincere efforts should be made by newspapers to help kill some of the fool laws which are breeding anarchists faster than we can get rid of them, some good might be gained. We are not interested in hair-splitting technicalities. The lessons of the war seem to be no better than the rotten politics which is the curse of this country today.

You are now asking the public to write Republican platform planks—the idea as far as it goes. But what's the use of a pretty platform unless we have a real man back of it? You know very well that a good man can be found; that either party probably will not put him up that they want a man to run. So, unless you are giving the same run, why not come out in the open, make a big noise about getting a real man to work for the country? We can stand it now, after the batch of lemons the Democrats have handed to us.

I believe that if the Republicans put up a real man, almost any reasonable platform will be supported by both Democrats and Republicans. We are all sick of the usual faces. Why not surprise the crowd and boost for a real man instead of playing with platforms?

CHARLES H. CASEAU.
134 East Thirty-fourth Street, City.

Expulsion of Socialist Legislators Defended
To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: Mr. H. Young offers the following proposition, formulated, no doubt, with an eye toward Albany, where the program of the Socialist party is on trial:

The Republican party pledges itself to see that every representative lawfully elected by the people shall retain his seat, whatever his political opinions, provided only that the member in question shall not be under sentence or pending sentence under the laws of the country.

It is generally conceded that this government is a government of the majority; its present form is the wish of the majority. It provides for all changes in the departments of the Legislature, judiciary and administration by due and peaceful process of the law. There are, on the other hand, some political faiths which provide for the forcible disposition of this government in order that a government of a selfish minority may sway an arbitrary rule. It must be admitted that these two programs are incompatible. Their devotees cannot work together in union. An advocate of force elected to the Legislature of the present form of government is an insidious bore from within, a monkey wrench in the machinery of the government of the majority. You take his seat, if possible, not for the good of that government or majority, but for the evil purpose of the aforesaid minority.

I have no doubt that Mr. Young wishes to give the Socialist party a fair chance. We all do. But if its program is of such a nature that it preaches the overthrow of the government by force instead of by the law, the essential basis of our government (and Constitution), then there is no room for its devotees as working units of our government.

A. H. RODICK.
360 Marion Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Conditions of the Platform Contest
THE Republican National Convention will meet in June to nominate candidates and draft a platform for the 1920 campaign. What should its planks be?

The Tribune believes you ought to have a chance to help write these planks. It offers you an opportunity to get your ideas before the Republican leaders.

The Tribune invites you to submit your planks and to write letters about the planks proposed by other readers through its columns. For the best plank and letters of discussion The Tribune offers the following prizes:

For the best plank \$500.00
For the second best plank 250.00
For each of the eight next best planks 100.00
For the best letter a daily prize of 10.00
For the best letter in the whole competition 100.00

THE TRIBUNE will make up a platform of ten planks to be determined by your votes. Every plank submitted and every letter advocating a plank will be counted as a vote for the issue it covers.

The ten issues receiving the most votes will be the planks of the final platform. The ten planks that best express the chosen issues will be selected by the judges for the prize awards.

The Tribune believes in short platforms. It limits each plank to 100 words. In judging between two planks or letters of equal merit the shorter will be chosen.

People Demand Not Alibis, but Achievement

Catchwords and Phrases Are Declared to Mean Nothing Unless They Can Be Translated Into Action

Americanism First Issue

Reverence for Authority, Rule of Majority and Tolerance for Minority

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: The unexpressed but none the less strongly implied demand of the American public to-day is not more politics, but less politics. The voters are disgusted with catchwords, fine phrases, mere mouthings which do not translate themselves into deeds. A world of philosophy is contained in the apt remark of Colonel House recently, when he said, "Everything has been said that can be said."

In the present period of reconstruction the country requires statesmen, not politicians; doers, not orators; accomplishments, not alibis; policies, not vagaries. The problems of labor and capital, Bolshevism, immigration, taxation, government control or ownership, foreign attitude and the many other vital issues that cry for solution must be faced with decision, not vacillation, with definiteness, not evasion.

The predominant issue in the coming campaign is to be Americanism. The proper handling of the multitudinous questions depends on an adequate conception of what constitutes Americanism. It is not a fatuous laudation of our great greatness; rather it is a healthy, practical application of traditional principles to current requirements. Americanism is founded upon a respectful reverence for constituted authority, the clear right of the majority to rule, a generous tolerance for the minority. Observance of these three general rules should provide ample justice for those who have grievances, plenty of freedom for those who have honest differences, and enough opportunity for changes by lawful means.

Americanism stands not for "America First," that implies doubt, as if there were secondary choices—but for "America Only." There has been entirely too much interference of European affairs among us, far too much appeal to racial elements. The country must be purged of all alienism now is the time to root it out. As Americans we can solve our own problems, so that every class, every race, every sect may be satisfied.

Let us make the Monroe Doctrine a personal doctrine.
WILLIAM S. SCHAEFER.
Westfield, N. J.

Return to Republican Methods Now Essential

Important Issues Set Aside to Promote Harmonious Action to Win the War

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: In many ways during the last few years the issues for which the Republican party stands have been clouded, due primarily to a desire to pull together with the party in power for the successful conclusion of the war, throwing aside all partisanship and waiving party differences for the cause of America. How well that temporary suspension of politics served us is a new history; but the period of reconstruction is at hand.

In this new era the principles which guided our nation through its most successful years, the constructive principles of the Republican party, must be reaffirmed and amended to meet the exigencies of the changing times. The ideas and views of our rank and file should be collected and published broadcast, so that all may read, consider, debate and improve on them, so the wheat may be separated from the chaff and the most comprehensive, concise and constructive platform possible condensed from the contributions.

To this end I know of no better medium than this worthy undertaking of The New York Tribune, and if every Republican newspaper in the country, regardless of party affiliations, would undertake a similar campaign and all party platforms should be based upon the outcome of their research, our problems of reconstruction would soon be mastered, and we would soon see the end of industrial misunderstanding, radicalism, Bolshevism and many other superfluous "isms," and our stand among the nations of the world would be promptly and firmly taken.

FRANK R. JOHNSON JR.
317 Branchport Avenue, Long Branch, N. J.

Some Suggested Planks

Security Guaranteed to All

The Republican party, recognizing the danger of encouraging growth of antagonized and hence solid-voting bodies of races or peoples in our midst, pledges itself to secure to every American, irrespective of color, sex or place of birth, the democratic right of trial by jury; steady maintenance of the rights and powers of representative and parliamentary bodies as security against the autocracy of all executives; the defense of every claim of the Bill of Rights as expressed in the American Declaration of Independence and made operative in the Constitution of the United States of America.—Eva Madden, 1115 Amsterdam Avenue, City.

A Budget System

We demand a decrease in government expenditure and a corresponding decrease in taxes by means of a budget system.—W. D. B.

Treaty With Reservations

The acceptance and confirmation of the peace treaty, subject to such reservations as will hold our government free from entanglements which would result from obligations to respond in military, naval, or financial power to calls for assistance from either major or minor nations, preserving the right to judge of and pass upon each particular case upon its own merits as evidenced by full Congressional vote.—T. G. H. W.

Group Interests Subordinate

The Republican party pledges itself to work not in the interest of group, class or party, but in the interest of the people of the United States.—F. R. Dulles, 85 Fulton Hall, Princeton.

Help for Railroads

As the circulatory system of the country's commercial and industrial body the railroads must be given ample nourishment, not alone to maintain life, but to grow as the demand for increased transportation and community distribution grows. To this end adequate rates must be established to compensate for expenses incurred by the system in rendering its service. Moreover, such rates must be made high enough to yield a fair return on invested capital and thus attract additional capital as needed. To stint the roads is to impede the country's natural

Government Controlled Profits

The Republican party pledges itself to a "government controlled cooperative law" whereby the government, stockholder, employee and consumer shall share in the profits of any concern; the percentage of profits to be fixed by Congress and all corporations capitalizing above a fixed amount to incorporate under the laws of the Federal government instead of states.—W. C. S. Hoboken, N. J.

Price Mark on Necessities

We believe the primary cause of the wave of unrest now sweeping over the country may be traced to the inordinately high cost of living. We, therefore, urge immediate and specific action in dealing with the

development.—A. Y. Cowen, 120 Broadway, New York City.

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